

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Thursday, October 18, 2001

Members Present: Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Mrs. Everson, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. McTeer, Mrs. Spearman (for Supt. Tenenbaum), Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Martin welcomed members and guests to the Committee meeting. He noted that Mrs. Spearman was representing Mrs. Tenenbaum. Mr. Martin reminded members that the EOC is not meeting in November; the next meeting is December 6.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of September 20 were approved as distributed.

Special Announcement: Mr. Martin announced that the EOC had received a \$50,000 grant from the SC Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Council to conduct a study of the relationship between district organization, student achievement and fiscal efficiencies. This is the study recommended by the Local Leadership Quality and Engagement Study Team and adopted by the EOC with the governance recommendations.

III. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated the Subcommittee has not met in the last month but is involved in the review of assessments and examination of economic indicators.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: On behalf of the Subcommittee, Mr. Staton presented the revised Academic Plan Guidelines for approval. The EOC voted approval. He also indicated that the Subcommittee is involved in the development of budget recommendations.

C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee, noting that the Subcommittee had met with representatives of the Institute for Families and Society on the parent survey. She also reviewed the Family Friendly Workplace Award that is to be given by the Governor and the State Chamber with support from a number of entities including the EOC. Mrs. Thompson drew members' attention to the Parent Guides that have been distributed to schools, districts, libraries, colleges, and other organizations across the state.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported for the Subcommittee. He summarized the four workshops sponsored by the SC Press Association and the SC Broadcasters Association and conducted by EOC staff. A survey is under administration to participants in EOC workshops this year.

E. Staff and Administration: Dr. Anderson drew members' attention to the draft of the Long-Range Plan at their desks. Nearly 1500 are being distributed for comment.

Dr. Anderson introduced Dr. Harry Miley. Dr. Miley and Dr. Randy Martin discussed the study, "The Relationship Between Fiscal

Autonomy, Property Taxes and Student Performance Among South Carolina's School Districts." Members discussed the findings of the report, especially the relationship between empowerment and accountability. Mr. Wilson suggested that fiscal autonomy should be considered within the package of other recommendations (e.g., elected boards, training, restructured responsibilities, etc.). Senator Giese asked if there was a relationship between the impaired districts and fiscal authority. Dr. Miley indicated that this was not in the scope of the study.

- IV. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Leonard McIntyre presented on behalf of the State Department of Education. He outlined in detail the tiered system of technical assistance. There was discussion about the need to sustain the supports in low wealth districts even after performance levels rise. There was discussion of the support for schools rated Below Average. In response to discussion about the distribution of scarce resources to districts with minimal tax effort, Mr. McTeer asked if there was the will to change the distribution of funds.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.